

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2, 4, 23-29, and 31-35 are now in the application. Claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 1, 3, and 5-22 were previously canceled. Claims 31-32 and 34-35 have been amended. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and review of the application in view of the amendment and the following remarks.

Initially, the Applicant would like to express its gratitude toward the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the present application by telephone on July 28, 2004 prior to making this submission. The amendments herein reflect the subject matter discussed by telephone with the Examiner and are believed to place the application (including its claims) in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to the specification and the drawings because of an informality contain therein. As discussed with the Examiner on July 28, 2004, the identified informality has been corrected by the above amendment to the specification. No amendment to the drawings is being made.

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowance of claims 2, 4, 23-29 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 31-34. See page 4 of the Office Action and the Office Action Summary.

Claims 30 and 35 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). In order to expedite allowance of allowable subject matter, and not to acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, independent claim 30 is being canceled herein, without disclaimer and without prejudice, while claim 35 has been amended to depend from claim 31 that has been indicated as allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot.

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The Examiner has also rejected claims 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that in claim 30, "the 'first switch' and the 'second switch' being 'disposed' between some point and the 'pad voltage'" is indefinite. Although, the Applicant believes that independent claim 30 and dependent claims 31-35 (that depend on claim 30) are definite, the Applicant nevertheless amends the remaining claims (i.e., 31-35) to further clarify the present invention in order to expedite allowance.

Specifically, as stated to the Examiner, the Applicant has rewritten the limitations of claim 30 added to claims 31-35 (either directly or by way of claim dependency) to now recite:

A method of protecting an integrated circuit from over voltage, the method comprising:

accepting a voltage from a power supply input to the integrated circuit;

accepting a pad voltage via a pad from an external voltage source to the integrated circuit; and

if the power supply voltage has a first value less than a predetermined value:

turning off a first switch disposed between the pad—voltage and a gate terminal of a second switch disposed between the pad—voltage and a bias node; and

turning on a third switch disposed between the bias node and the gate terminal of the second switch,

thereby turning on the second switch to provide a bias voltage for the integrated circuit at the bias node.

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(The new language is indicated by underline and deleted language is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.) Accordingly, in view of the above remarks and amendment, the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should now be withdrawn.

Lastly, in order to expedite allowance, claims 31, 32, and 34 have been amended to independent form to incorporate all the rewritten limitations of claim 30, and, as indicated above these independent claims should now be allowed. See page 4 of the Office Action. Dependent claim 33 depends from claim 32 and amended dependent claim 35 depends from claim 31. These dependent claims should also now be allowed.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 4, 23-29, and 31-35 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and a timely Notice of Allowance is solicited. If it would be helpful to placing this application in condition for allowance, the Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned counsel and conduct a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted,
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